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STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

In the Matter of DIRECTOR,)	CASE NO. OSH 2010-13
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND)	(Inspection No. 313078453)
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS,)	
)	STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT
Complainant,)	AGREEMENT; EXHIBIT A; APPROVAL
)	AND ORDER
vs.)	
)	
HONOLULU BUILDERS, LLC,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Complainant Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (“Director”) and Respondent HONOLULU BUILDERS, LLC (“Respondent”) having reached a full and complete settlement of the above-captioned contested case presently pending before the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (“Board”) stipulate and agree as follows:

On or about December 23, 2009, the Director, by and through the State of Hawaii’s Occupational Safety and Health Division (“HIOSH”), inspected Respondent’s workplace located at Sakamaki Hall, 2530 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822.

As a consequence of said inspection, the Director, through HIOSH's Administrator, issued a Citation and Notification of Penalty on June 23, 2010 ("Citation") to Respondent alleging violations of the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Standards and assessed an aggregate penalty of \$41,000.00. *See* Exhibit A.

Respondent timely contested the Citation.

THEREFORE, to avoid the expense of litigation and to compromise and settle the above-captioned case, the parties, by and through their respective representatives, stipulate and agree as follows:

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this contested case pursuant to section 396-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS").
2. At all relevant times, Respondent maintained a workplace at Sakamaki Hall, 2530 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822.
3. At all relevant times, Respondent was an employer, as defined in HRS § 396-3, and employed employees, as defined in HRS § 396-3, and was therefore subject to the requirements of HRS chapter 396, the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Law.
4. Respondent represents that it has abated each violation listed in the Citation in compliance with the abatement requirements under Hawaii Administrative Rule § 12-51-22.
5. The Citation is amended as follows:
 - a. the characterization of Citation 2, item 1, alleging a willful violation of section 12-110-2(h), Hawaii Administrative Rules, is reduced to a serious characterization.
6. The Director reduces the aggregate penalty from \$41,000.00 to \$7,500.00 which shall be paid in full to the Director of Budget and Finance upon the execution of this Agreement.
7. Except for the stipulated amendments described above, the Citation is

confirmed in all other respects and upon approval by the Board, this Agreement and the Citation, as amended, shall become a final order of the Director.

8. If Respondent fails to fulfill any condition of this Agreement within the time stated, the willful characterization of the Citation 2, item 1, that was reduced to serious along with the original penalty amount of \$41,000.00, shall automatically and without further notice be reinstated, and shall be final and conclusive and shall be treated as such with regard to any future citations the Director may issue against Respondent including, but not limited to, any "repeat" violations. All amounts shall be immediately due and owing. If Respondent fails to pay all penalties and the Director institutes legal action to collect on the outstanding amount due, Respondent agrees to pay all fees and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred to collect on the unpaid penalties. Any forbearance by the Director in exercising any right or remedy shall not be a waiver of or preclude the exercise of any right or remedy.

9. Respondent shall post a copy of this Agreement and Order in a prominent place at or near the location of the posting of the Citation, and the Agreement and Order shall remain posted for three working days (excluding weekends and State holidays).


10. Respondent shall continue to comply with HRS chapter 396, the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Law, and the related rules.

11. Nothing in this Agreement shall bar the Director from taking any action regarding future acts or practices by Respondent which may be alleged to violate HRS chapter 396, the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Law, or the related rules.

12. Upon approval of this Agreement, all proceedings before the Board shall be dismissed.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, FEB 23 2011.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



BRIAN G.S. CHOY
Attorney for Respondent

HONOLULU BUILDERS, LLC

By: 

Its PRINCIPAL

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



HERBERT B.K. LAU
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney for Director of Labor and
Industrial Relations, State of Hawaii

DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS


DWIGHT TAKAMINE

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED BY
HAWAII LABOR RELATIONS BOARD:


JAMES B. NICHOLSON, Chair


SARAH R. HIRAKAMI, Member


NORMAN K. KATO II, Member

ORDER NO. 420

DATED: February 24, 2011

State of Hawaii

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
HAWAII OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 425
HONOLULU, HI 96813
Phone: (808)586-9110 FAX: (808)586-9104



Certified Number: 7006 0100 0005 8250 7623

Citation and Notification of Penalty

To:

Honolulu Builders LLC
and its successors
800 Bethel St #401
Honolulu, HI 96813

Inspection Number: 313078453
Inspection Date(s): 12/23/2009- 06/14/2010
Issuance Date: 06/23/2010
OSHC ID: E4528
Optional Report No.: 00610
Inspection Type: Unprogrammed Related
Scope of Inspection: Comprehensive Inspection

Inspection Site:

2530 Dole St
Honolulu, HI 96822

The violation(s) described in this Citation and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.

This Citation and Notification of Penalty describes violations of the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Law. The penalty(ies) listed herein is (are) based on these violations. You must abate the violations referred to in this Citation by the dates listed and pay the penalties, unless within 20 calendar days from your receipt of this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you mail a notice of contest to the State of Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division (HIOSH) at the address shown above. Please refer to the enclosed booklet (Employer Rights and Responsibilities Following a HIOSH Inspection) which outlines your rights and responsibilities and which should be read in conjunction with this form. Issuance of this Citation does not constitute a finding that a violation of the Law has occurred unless there is a failure to contest as provided for in the Law or, if contested, unless this Citation is affirmed by the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB) or a court.

Posting - The law requires that a copy of this Citation and Notification of Penalty be posted immediately in a prominent place at or near the location of the violation(s) cited herein, or, if it is not practicable because of the nature of the employer's operations, where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. This Citation must remain posted until the violation(s) cited herein has (have) been abated, or for 3 working days (excluding weekends and State holidays), whichever is longer. **The penalty dollar amounts need not be posted and may be marked out or covered up prior to posting.**

Informal Conference - An informal conference is not required. However, if you wish to have such a conference you may request one with the Administrator during the 20 calendar day contest period. During such an informal conference, you may present any evidence or views which you believe would support an adjustment to the citation(s) and/or penalty(ies).

If you are considering a request for an informal conference to discuss any issues related to this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you must take care to schedule it early enough to allow time to contest after the informal conference, should you decide to do so. Please keep in mind that a written letter of intent to contest must be submitted to the Administrator within 20 calendar days of your receipt of this Citation. The running of this contest period is not interrupted by an informal conference.

If you decide to request an informal conference, please complete, remove and post the page 5, Notice to Employees, next to this Citation and Notification of Penalty as soon as the time, date, and place of the informal conference have been determined. Be sure to bring to the conference any and all supporting documentation of existing conditions as well as any abatement steps taken thus far. If conditions warrant, we can enter into an informal settlement agreement which amicably resolves this matter without litigation or contest.

Employers' Right to Contest - You have the right to contest this Citation and Notification of Penalty. You may contest all citation items or only individual items. You may also contest penalties and/or abatement dates without contesting the underlying violations. Unless you inform the Administrator in writing that you intend to contest the citation(s) and/or penalty(ies) within 20 calendar days after receipt, the citation(s) and the penalty(ies) will become a final order of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and may not be reviewed by any court or agency. Once a letter of contest is received, it becomes the jurisdiction of the HLRB.

Penalty Payment - Penalties are due within 20 calendar days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Make your check or money order payable to "Director of Budget and Finance." Please indicate the Inspection Number on the remittance.

HIOSH does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than the full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Notification of Corrective Action - For each violations which you do not contest, you are required by Section 12-51-22 to submit an Abatement Certification to HIOSH. The certification must be sent by you within 5 calendar days of the abatement date indicated on the citation. For **Willful** and **Repeat** violations, documents (examples: photos, copies of receipts, training records, etc.) demonstrating that abatement is complete must accompany the certification. Where the citation is classified as **Serious** and the citation states that abatement documentation is required, documents such as those described above are required to be submitted along with the abatement certificate. If the citation indicates that the violation was corrected during the inspection, no abatement certification is required for that item.

All abatement verification documents must contain the following information: 1) Your name and address; 2) the inspection number (found on the front page); 3) the citation and citation item number(s) to which the submission relates; 4) a statement that the information is accurate; 5) the signature of the employer or employer's authorized representative; 6) the date the hazard was corrected; 7) a brief statement of how the hazard was corrected; and 8) a statement that affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement.

The law also requires a copy of all abatement verification documents, required by Section 12-51-22 to be sent to HIOSH, also be posted at the location where the violation appeared and the corrective action took place.

Employer Discrimination Unlawful - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 60 days after the discrimination occurred with the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division at the address shown above.

Employer Rights and Responsibilities - The enclosed booklet (Employer Rights and Responsibilities Following a HIOSH Inspection) outlines additional employer rights and responsibilities and should be read in conjunction with this notification.

Employees' Right to Contest - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be mailed to the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division at the address shown above and postmarked within 20 calendar days of the receipt by the employer of this Citation and Notification of Penalty.

Inspection Activity Data - You should be aware that OSHA publishes information on inspection and citation activity on the Internet under the provisions of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act. The information related to your inspection will be available 30 calendar days after the Citation Issuance Date. You are encouraged to review the information concerning your establishment at WWW.OSHA.GOV. If you have any dispute with the accuracy of the information displayed, please contact this office.

ABATEMENT CERTIFICATION

COLLEEN Y. LACLAIR, ACTING DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
HAWAII OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 425
HONOLULU, HI 96813

Honolulu Builders LLC
800 Bethel St #401
Honolulu, HI 96813

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____.
How corrected: _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____.
How corrected: _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____.
How corrected: _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____.
How corrected: _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____.
How corrected: _____.

I attest that the information contained in this document is accurate and that the affected employees and their
representatives have been informed of the abatement activities described in this certification.

Signature

Typed or Printed Name

State of Hawaii

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division



NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with HIOSH to discuss the citation(s) issued on 06/23/2010. The conference will be held at the HIOSH office located at 830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 425, HONOLULU, HI, 96813 on _____ at _____.

Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Honolulu Builders LLC
Inspection Site: 2530 Dole St, Honolulu, HI 96822

Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Serious**

HAR §12-110-2(f)(1)(A) was violated because:

Prior to a concrete pouring project, the general contractor removed the properly installed hole-covers and placed unsecured plywood pieces, which did not meet the HIOSH standard, inside the second floor holes. As a result, an employee of the concrete pouring subcontractor fell through the unsecured hole onto the lower level approximately 16 feet below and suffered serious injuries.

The general contractor, by reinstalling the hole guards with the unsecured plywood pieces, failed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the standards of part 3 of this title from the contractor's own employees as well as from all subcontractor employees on the project.

§12-110-2(f)(1)(A) states "By contracting for full performance of a contract, the prime contractor assumes all obligations prescribed as employer responsibilities under the law, whether or not any part of the work is subcontracted.

- (A) Where one contractor is selected to execute the work of a project, that contractor shall ensure compliance with the requirements of the standards of part 3 of this title from the contractor's own employees as well as from all subcontractor employees on the project."

Location: UH Sakamaki Hall AC repair/replacement project site (Ewa side) at 2530 Dole St

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	Corrected
Penalty:	\$ 2,500.00

See pages 1 through 5 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Honolulu Builders LLC
Inspection Site: 2530 Dole St, Honolulu, HI 96822

Citation 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(i) [Refer to chapter 12-121.2, HAR] was violated because:

Unsecured plywood pieces were placed inside the second floor holes, which were approximately 22 inches wide, 42 inches long and 16 feet above the lower level. No other means of protection were provided to protect employees who walked/worked around the holes from falling through them. As a result, a subcontractor employee fell through an unsecured hole onto the lower level approximately 16 feet below and suffered serious injuries.

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(i) states "Each employee on walking/working surfaces shall be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest system, covers, or guardrail system erected around such hole."

Location: UH Sakamaki Hall AC repair/replacement Project site (Ewa side) at 2530 Dole St

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Penalty:

Corrected
\$ 2,500.00

State of Hawaii
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Hawaii Occupational Safety And Health Division

Inspection Number: 313078453
Inspection Dates: 12/23/2009-06/14/2010
Issuance Date: 06/23/2010



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Honolulu Builders LLC
Inspection Site: 2530 Dole St, Honolulu, HI 96822

Citation 1 Item 3 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1926.701(b) [Refer to chapter 12-155.1, HAR] was violated because:

Accident photos indicated that reinforcing steel (aka rebars), which appeared to protrude approximately 7-8 inches above the walking/working surface, was left unguarded on the first and second floors of the project site. Without proper rebar guards, the employees were potentially exposed to an impalement hazard.

29 CFR 1926.701(b) states "Reinforcing steel. All protruding reinforcing steel, onto and into which employees could fall, shall be guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement."

Location: UH Sakamaki Hall AC repair/replacement project site (Ewa side) at 2530 Dole St

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Penalty:

Corrected
\$ 1,000.00

See pages 1 through 5 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Honolulu Builders LLC
Inspection Site: 2530 Dole St, Honolulu, HI 96822

Citation 2 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Willful**

HAR §12-110-2(h) was violated because:

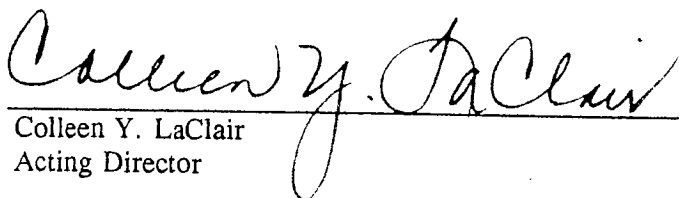
Employees having knowledge of the existence of the unsafe hole condition reported it to the site superintendent and project manager. However, they did not take any actions to correct the unsafe condition. As a result, a subcontractor employee fell through an unsecured hole onto the lower level approximately 16 feet below and suffered serious fall injuries.

§12-110-2(h) states "Any employee having knowledge of the existence of any unsafe device, practice, operation, safeguard, equipment, or condition shall promptly report it to the supervisor or person in charge. A supervisor or person in charge to whose attention the existence of any unsafe device, practice, operation, safeguard, equipment, or condition is called shall take immediate steps to correct the unsafe condition or practice."

Location: UH Sakamaki Hall AC repair/replacement project site (Ewa side) at 2530 Dole St

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Penalty:

Corrected
\$ 35,000.00


Colleen Y. LaClair
Acting Director